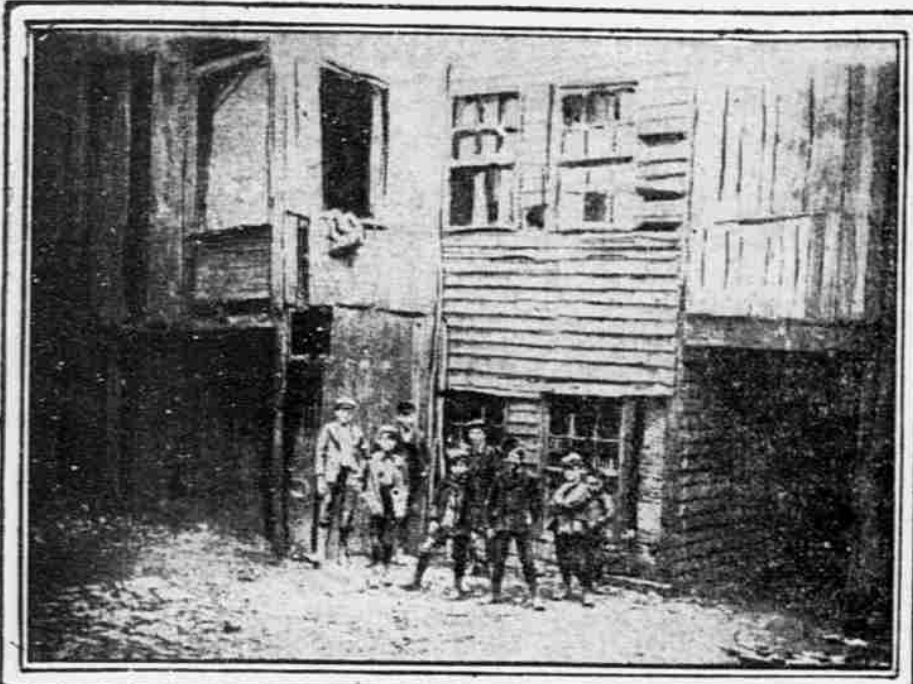
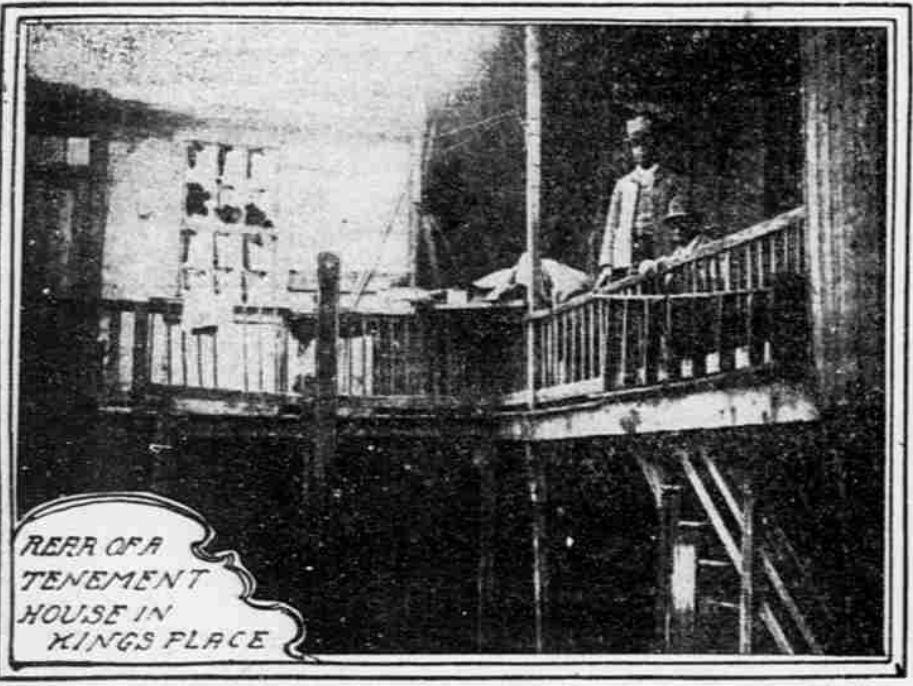


THIRD WARD IS TO HAVE A CLEANING BEFORE THE SUMMER'S ADVENT.

Civic Improvement League Has Sent a Corps of Women Inspectors Into Crowded Districts to Instruct Tenants in a More Healthful Mode of Living—Sanitation Work Is Directed by Mrs. Louis Marion Call.



A HOUSE ON TWELFTH STREET WHERE MANY FAMILIES LIVE



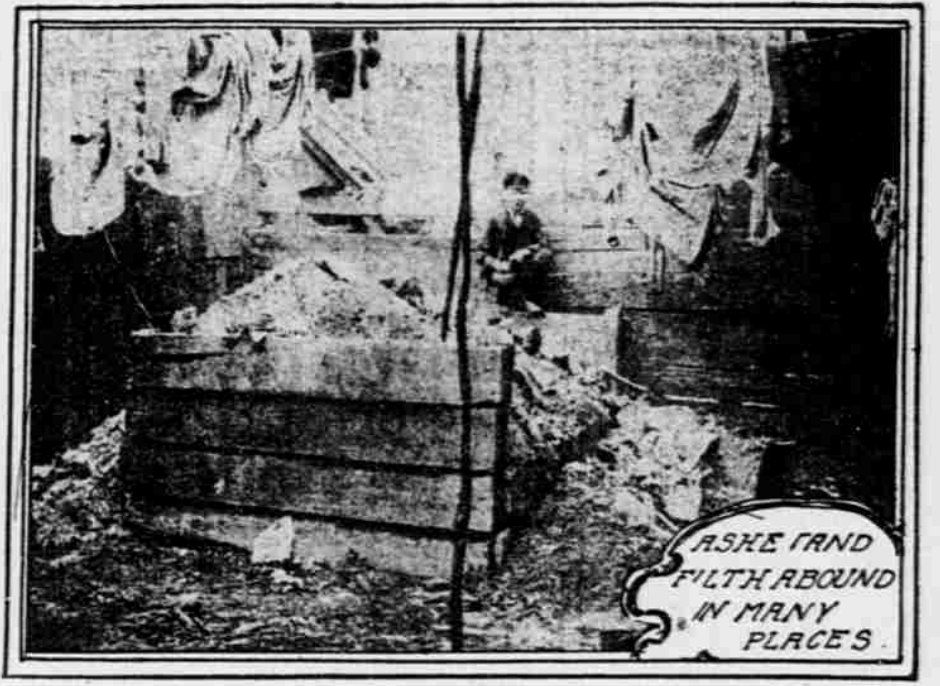
REAR OF A TENEMENT HOUSE IN KINGS PLACE



MISS SIEGEL AND MISS NIDELET CIVIC LEAGUE WORKERS



TENEMENT AND ALLEY IN BIDDLE STREET



ASHES AND FILTH AROUND IN MANY PLACES

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

The poorer districts in the Third Ward are undergoing a spring cleaning by the Civic Improvement League's corps of downtown inspectors. The league, which is an organization composed of public-spirited men and women of St. Louis, has established an office at No. 127 North Broadway, and through Miss Claudia Siegel and Miss Celeste Nidelet, two young women who were appointed sanitary inspectors by the league, much good is being accomplished and many persons in the ward are being interested in the work of sanitation and the purposes of the civic society.

CROWDED CONDITION OF HOUSES MAKES GOOD SANITATION DIFFICULT.

A good sanitary system is hard to establish in downtown districts because of the peculiar conditions that exist. In some tenement-houses there are from one to three families living in a single room. In a tenement-house in Biddle street near Sixth, seven Italians eat and sleep in one room. In this same tenement-house there

are twenty rooms and sixteen families, and every family has a plentiful supply of children.

In the Ashley block, at Third and O'Fallon streets, there are four floors, 500 rooms and an average of one family to every room. In King's place, on North Twelfth between Wash and Carr streets, there is a row of three-story brick houses in which live 200 negro families. It is said that in some instances there are four families living in one room in this district.

The entire district around Twelfth and Carr streets is devoted mostly to tenement-houses and the population is greater to the square foot than in any other part of St. Louis.

The density of population and bad conditions of the buildings, together with a lack of plumbing facilities, has brought on the present serious condition in regard to the sanitation of these districts.

CANNAS MADE EVERY DAY OF THE TENEMENT DISTRICT.

The sanitation work of the Civic League

is directed by Mrs. Louis Marion Call and Miss Siegel and Miss Nidelet work under her. Miss Siegel and Miss Nidelet make a canvass of the tenement districts every day and report to the central body of the Civic League of their findings.

For the last four weeks they have reported on an average twenty-five cases a day. These reports get to the health officials finally, but thus far the officers have not been successful in compelling a strict enforcement of the health laws.

In the Ashley building, on Third street, there is more dirt, perhaps, than one can find in any other building of the same size in St. Louis. On the lower back porch of this building there is filth to a depth of six inches. No one attempted to clean this porch all last week.

LOW RENT OF ROOMS ATTRACTS THE POOR TENANT.

Rooms in the Ashley building rent from \$2 to \$5 a month, and it is rarely that one is unoccupied. It is the low price of the rooms that makes the demand for them, and, as the owners do not object to children or the number of persons who are to occupy a room, the poor are glad to be there.

The Ashley building is a little village in itself. On the first floor there is a grocery store, a meat market, a drug store and several other retail establishments. The tenants make most of their purchases in these stores, and the price for commodities, like the rent, is marked down to the lowest notch.

Similar conditions exist in the rear of a short row of tenement-houses in Biddle street near Sixth. Occupants of the lower rooms of these houses are unable to prevent filth from accumulating on account of the defective condition of the water pipes and plumbing. There is a hallway in the rear from which ascends a stairway. This hallway is deep in filth, and, to add to the situation, water and refuse from leaky pipes drip down upon the floor day and night.

AVERAGE OF SEVEN OCCUPANTS TO EACH OF THE ROOMS.

It is in this building that seven Italians eat and sleep in one room. There are sixteen rooms in the tenement, and sixteen families, some of them quite large, manage to find room to live in them. In North Twelfth street, beginning at No.

112, there is a negro district known as "The Hookery." This district includes a number of dilapidated shacks, and from two to four families live in each house. The chimney is defective in one of these houses, and when the occupants start a fire smoke emits from all sides of the building, the weatherboarding being as defective as the flue.

The houses are placed in two rows, one row facing the alley. Between the houses and on either side ashes and filth are stacked to a height of several feet and the odor is nauseating.

A block north of "The Hookery," on Twelfth street, is a settlement of Russian Jews. These families live in two and three story tenements, and the sanitary agents have forced them to get rid of at least a part of the filth which made the property unfit for habitation.

Rosie Hymer, an old woman, proved a hard customer. Mrs. Hymer is the owner of three horses and in the barn in which they were kept the filth was piled to a depth of two feet. When Patrolman Arthur Groppe, accompanied by the young women of the Civic League, visited the

place yesterday part of the filth had been removed, and Mrs. Hymer promised to clean the premises entirely.

BASEMENT FILLED WITH WATER IN CROWDED NEGRO DISTRICT.

The most serious of all the sanitary tenement houses in the Third Ward can be seen on North Twelfth, between Wash and Carr streets. This district is known as King's place and in the twenty or thirty tenement houses in the district there live over 200 negro families.

All winter five feet of stagnant water has stood in the cellars of these tenements and smallpox and other dangerous diseases have been contracted by the inhabitants. Now that summer is approaching the prospect is even more serious.

A small street runs between the houses and in this narrow avenue there are ash piles, tin cans, refuse and other forms of filth. The residents, thus far, have made no effort to clean the place and will not until they are compelled to do so by the authorities.

East of King's place, on Twelfth street, there is a row of brick tenement-houses, occupied by negroes and white people. The same conditions prevail in this locality, with the exception that some of the houses are so bare and rickety that they have been deserted. Robberies and assaults are not infrequent occurrences in the alleys back of these tenements, and the police say it is one of the most dangerous localities in the city.

THIRD AND FOURTH WARDS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT.

Of all the wards in St. Louis, the Third and Fourth are most in need of sanitary improvement. The Civic League, therefore, has begun its work in this section of the city, and after a system has been established another station will be opened in the Fourth Ward.

Plans of the Civic Improvement League are most extensive. It is its purpose to get the good men and women of the poor districts interested in the sanitary work, and through them promote interest among the children.

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING INSTALLMENTS.

Roger Iron was executed in 1761 by Governor Tyrone for his participation in the Regulator's insurrection, and his Carolina estate, Appleby Hundred, bestowed upon one Gilbert Starr. His son, John Iron, having till then served the king in a regiment in England, threw up his commission and took service with the Austrians. In 1778 he returned to the New World to see it in the troublous days of revolution, and could not regain his ancestral estate.

Almost the first man he meets is Sir Francis Falconet, an old enemy of his. The two fight a duel, in which Sir Francis wounds Iron, taking an unfair advantage of the intervention of Margery Starr, the daughter of the usurper of Appleby, whither Iron is taken by her orders. She nurses him, and he falls in love with her, but biding him to respect what he believes to be the prior claim of a young American, Dick Jeniffer, she also tells him that Sir Francis Falconet has asked her to marry him, a marriage that he purposes to prevent.

Long he discovers that he is in reality the prisoner of the baronet, who intends to denounce him to Tarleton as a Continental spy. He also learns that a powder conveyance is to be sent out to arm the Indians for raids upon the patriots. While trying to escape with the map of the route of this conveyance he is captured. Tarleton condemns him to death, and during the night before his execution Margery visits him. She endeavors to carry the map to Jeniffer, but is taken. Tarleton taunts her with being the mistress of Iron, who boldly declares that she is his wife. Gilbert Starr, knowing that he is about to die, demands a secret marriage, as this will secure Appleby for his daughter independent of his condemner's claim.

Iron is led out to execution, but saved at the last moment by a band of patriots. Uncasnoa, his Indian playmate of boyhood days, informs him that Jeniffer, too, has escaped. Iron chances to find Jeniffer surrounded by enemies.

CHAPTER XV—Continued.

He never flinched for all the hurrying missiles sent on ahead to cut him down, nor gave a glance aside to where the horsemen were deploying to surround him. As I looked, the two great pistols belched in the very faces of the nearest Cherokees, and in the momentary check the firebrands made, the backed-off daymore went to work, rising and falling like a weaver's beam.

I saw no more; but some heart-bursting minutes later, when Jeniffer came racing on behind to share the flight, I heard her stand had made a possibility, the swelling sob choked me once again; and when I thought of what his rescue of me meant to him, I could have blubbered like a boy.

But there was little time or space to give remorse an inning. The Cherokees, checked but for the moment, were storming hotly at our heels. And as we ran I heard the shouted command of Falconet to his mounted men: "A rescue! Right oblique and head them in the road! Gallop, you devils!"

We ran in Indian file, I at the chief's heels and Jeniffer at mine. I followed the Catawba blindly, and being as yet little better than half a man in breath and muscle, was well-nigh spent before we crashed down through a tangled briar thicket into the river road.

We were in time, but with no fraction of a minute to spare. We could hear the padded-pad of the light-footed runners close upon us, following now by the noise we made; and on our left the air was trembling to the thunder of the mounted men coming at a breakneck gallop down the road.

"Thank God!" says Richard, with a quick dash to right and left in the lesser gloom of the open. "I was afraid even the chief might miss the place in the dark. Down the bank to the river—quick, man, and the mayhap we've found the knack of it yourself."

"No," said I, and the three of us slid the hollowed log into the stream.

We were aloft in shortest order, holding the canoe against the current by clinging to the overhanging trees that fringed the bank; yet with paddles poised for a second dash for freedom should the need arise. The men dipped forthwith to save the precious minutes, but Jeniffer stayed me.

"Halt!" he whispered. "Hold steady and listen. They cannot see us from above; they have been thrown off the scent."

I thought it most unlikely; but his guess was right and mine was wrong. Though any of these savages could lift a trail in daylight, following it at top speed like a trained bloodhound, yet now the darkness baffled them.

So there was some running to and fro in the road above our heads, and then the troopers galloped down. Followed hastily a labored confab through the linguist, broken in the midst by a fury of hot oaths from Falconet; and then the chase swept on toward the plantations, and we were left to make their losing of us sure by what-saver means we chose.

We muddled slowly up stream in silence, keeping well within the blacker shadow of the tree fringe. When we came opposite the glowing ruins of the hunting lodge, Jeniffer backed upon his paddle.

"You'll go ashore," said he.

I said I would, adding: "They have slaughtered poor old Darius, and I am loath to leave his bones for the buzzards to pick."

He made no comment other than to swear in sympathy. When the prologue rounded the Indian was out like a cat, to vanish phantom-wise among the trees. I followed in some clumsy fashion, leaving Jeniffer to keep the canoe; but half way up the hill he joined me, and would not turn back for all my urging: "No; hang me if I'll let you out of eye-grip again," was all he would say; and so we went together, and were together at the seeing of what the glowing ember-heaps would show us.

Poor Tomas had his sepulture already. His cord had burned in two and let him down so close beside the cabin wall that all the blazing debris from the overhanging eaves had made his funeral pile. Darius lay

as I had last seen him; and him we buried in the maize field at the back, with the ember glow for funeral lights.

It was a chanceful thing to do. Since the Cherokees had left their dead and wounded and Falconet the body of his trooper who had yielded me the musket, there was small doubt they would return. Yet we had time to dig a shallow grave for my old benchman; to dig and fill it up again; and afterward to make a circuit round the burning pile to reach the river side once more.